The Bible 1st Lecture

A. Internal Relations of the Bible.

I. Name

II. Original Language

III. Division & Arrangement

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P.M.

The Bible –

Intro. The Bible has influenced modern civilization immeasurably, affecting its language & literature, philosophy & culture, individual morality & social movements, national history & progress. Every well-informed person should know about its origin & development, every educated person should be acquainted with its contents & every Xn should know its teachings and standards and be personally acquainted with the heart of the Bible – Jesus Christ.

In my series of talks on the Bible am going to be guided by Hastings' Bible Dictionary in its outline of an article entitled "Bible."

Read outline –

A. Internal relations of the Bible

I. Names – Name Bible derived from Greek. Ancient books written upon Byblus or Papyrus reed, & from this custom came the Gk. word Biblos = book.

The Scriptures, the recognized records of divine revelation, were known to early Gk Xns as ta Biblia – the books – par excellence.

~~2. The name "Bible" does not appear in~~

4/ ~~the scriptures~~

In its Latin form the word "biblia" takes on an added significance. This neutral plural "biblia" came to be regarded as a feminine singular quite in keeping with the growing conception of the Bible as the one utterance of God rather than as the multiplicity of voices speaking for Him. As a singular name, accordingly, it has been adopted into the language of the Western Church.

"Bibliotheca" another word commonly used to designate the scriptures by many Medieval period writers, including the Latin Fathers.

Bibliotheca = a complete M.S. of the O.T. + N.T. = the library, usually preceded by Divina — the Divine Library.

Thus we see in the development of the very name "Bible" the change from original plurality to unity.

To a certain extent modern biblical scholarship has had to reverse the process in order to find out the true facts about the Bible

3/ 2. The word "Bible" does not appear in any of the scriptures.

The sacred writers designated the ~~Scriptures~~ sacred writings by various terms—

The Holy scriptures; The Word; The Word of Truth; the Law + the Prophets. The Old + New Testaments "The Writings".

The term, "Testament", applied to Old + New Testaments. has an interesting history—

Due to an accidental mistranslation of diathēkē (διαθήκη), which originally meaning "arrangement" or "disposition" came to signify a testament or will.

But in the Septuagint (70)
(tran. of O.T. from Hebrew to Greek about 285 B.C.)
the word, diatheke, was adopted to translate the Hebrew word, Berith, meaning covenant.

St. Paul speaks of the Hebrew scriptures as the Old Covenant (2 Cor. 3[14] R.V.) and of the ministers of Christ as ministers of the New

4) Covenant. Origin, in the beginning of the 3rd Cent. mentions the Divine Scriptures, the so-called Old and New Covenants.

When the Septuagint was translated into Latin. (about 400 A.D.) by Jerome the greek word - diatheke presented a problem - two Latin words could be used - instrumentum or testamentum, both legal terms, the former denoting an official document, and the latter ~~mean~~ a will or disposition of property.

The word, Testamentum, was used & tho later Jerome translated the Hebrew word - Berith (covenant) with pactum (pact or covenant) he left Testamentum remain in the Vulgate - hence our Old & New Testament instead of Old & New Covenant. But the Hebrew is Covenant as is the correct word.

5. <u>Original Languages</u>. II.

<u>Hebrew</u> - greater part of O.T. was in Hebrew.

A branch of the great semitic family of languages

A few passages of O.T. were in Aramaic, but not much.

<u>Greek</u> — Alexander the great, founded a ~~colony~~ Jewish colony in Alexandria made up of the Hellenists or Jews of the Dispersion. The Greek which the Hellenists used is the greek ~~of the N.T.~~ the Jews ~~used~~ in all the ~~[illegible]~~

At time of X Greek was the prevailing language thruout the Roman Empire, the language of educated men and of commercial life.

<u>N.T. Greek</u> is the common dialect of Attic greek which used many Provincialisms & modified expressions.

N.T. writings also show influence of Septuagint greek.

7. In 1250 A.D. the Bible was divided into chapters by Cardinal Hugo de Sancto Caro.

In 1550 Robert Stevens, a printer in Paris, arranged ~~chapters~~ & Bible into verses.

In 1557 the 1st versified N.T. in English was published.

In 1560 the entire Bible thus published.

The Bible was the 1st book to be printed. Latin Bible printed from movable metal type in 1455.

The 1st Bible printed in America was in the Indian language by John Eliot in 1663.

1st Eng. Bible printed in America was in 1782.

5) Aramaic - Much of Gospel of Matthew aramaic. Jesus was supposed to have spoken Aramaic (language of Syria & Mesopotamia used by Palestine Jews)

III. Division & Arrangement.

O.T. & N.T.

O.T. consists of 39 Bks in Eng. Bible but in Hebrew Bible - 24 books. 1 & 2 Sam., 1 & 2 Kgs, 1 & 2 Chr., Ezra & Nehemiah & the 12 Minor Prophets being respectively counted as one book.

In Hebrew - they fall into 3 groups.
the Law, or Torah (1st 5 bks Pentateuch)
the Prophets or Nebiim
the Holy Writings or Kethubim

In LXX (Sept.) the divisions are
Historical
Prophetic
Poetic
this division of O.T. passed into Vulgate & other versions.

N.T. presents no difficulty in its division
Gospels
Acts of Apostles
St. Paul's Epistles
General Epistles
Revelation.